

\_\_\_ INFORMATION

TAB SECTION: 5

X ACTION REQUIRED

DATE OF MEETING: 5/29/08

DATE MATERIAL: 5/29/08

PREPARED BY: Whitt

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**AGENDA ITEM: MHSOAC Proposed Action Plan**

- ENCLOSURES:**
- Letter to Stephen Mayberg from Senator Steinberg, dated May 8, 2008
  - Summary of March 2008 Strategic Meeting

**OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM:** Statewide projects handouts and PowerPoint presentation handouts (to be distributed at meeting for the Statewide Projects agenda item); draft letter to the Governor and Legislature will be provided to you as soon as possible

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**ISSUE:**

This agenda item asks the MHSOAC to adopt an action plan comprised of votes related to three issues:

- The administration of statewide projects
- Agreement to schedule a one-day meeting for the specific purpose of adopting a list of prioritized projects which will be implemented by the end of the calendar year
- Adoption of a position on the state budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09

1. Administration of statewide projects

The MHSOAC is being asked to adopt an approach to the administration of statewide projects. This item has been on the MHSOAC agenda for several months now. At the last MHSOAC meeting it appeared the timeliest and most efficient approach for the administration of statewide projects necessitated administration of the funds at the local level and the Commission was presented with two (2) choices of how this distribution could occur. Since that time additional options have become available.

DMH asked for the authority to receive and expend funds reassigned back to them by the counties for purposes of administering portions of the Suicide Prevention statewide project and for the Student Mental Health Initiative statewide project in their Spring Finance Letter. Thus far they have received approval to do so (following Senate and Assembly budget sub-committee hearings).

CMHDA is continuing to develop ideas about administration of statewide projects at the local level.

Senator Steinberg has weighed in as supporting the original intent of the MHSOAC that statewide projects be administered at the state level through the DMH. The Senator's enclosed letter to Stephen Mayberg, dated May 8, 2008, describes his strategy for expediting funding for statewide projects.

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**ISSUE: (Cont'd)**

This topic is scheduled for discussion at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Government Partners meeting and separate time has been set aside at the MHSOAC meeting for commissioners to receive the latest update regarding options for administering these projects.

**VOTE:** You will be asked to make a decision regarding the best approach for the administration of statewide projects. MHSOAC staff are not able to make a recommendation regarding this topic until after the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Government Partners meeting.

2. Proposed one-day meeting

The MHSOAC is being asked to consider meeting for one day to adopt a list of prioritized projects which will be completed by the end of the calendar year. This approach is intended to further demonstrate the MHSOAC's leadership regarding MHSA implementation and to provide the Commission with additional opportunities to fulfill its strategic goals as discussed at its Strategic Meeting in March 2008. The enclosed Strategic Planning Summary provides more information about these goals. Our facilitator, Allen Goldstein, has indicated he can be available to facilitate this meeting and continue the work begun in March.

**VOTE:** Staff recommend that the Commission vote in favor of this meeting and schedule it at its earliest convenience.

3. Adoption of a position on the state budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09

Given the state budget crisis and varying approaches which have been described for balancing the budget, it may be appropriate for the MHSOAC to share its perspective regarding protection of MHSA funds with the Governor and the Legislature. At least one commissioner has expressed an interest in sending a letter on behalf of the Commission to the Governor and Legislature urging them to protect MHSA funding. Enclosed is a draft letter for your consideration.